

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following claim listing replaces all prior listings and versions of the claims:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A power system comprising: an electrochemical device; a load device; a power generator; and a charge/discharge controller of said electrochemical device, said electrochemical device comprising a positive electrode, a negative electrode, and a liquid electrolyte or a solid electrolyte, said electrochemical device having a charge/discharge curve that has at least one step, a given step of said at least one step having an inflection point, a voltage corresponding to the inflection point or a point adjacent to the inflection point being set as a threshold value, the inflection point existing greater than 0 % and less than 100% of a remaining capacity, said charge/discharge controller being configured to control charge/discharge of said electrochemical device, and said power system further comprises a comparator that compares the voltage of said electrochemical device with said threshold value, wherein based on an output of said comparator, said charge/discharge controller causes said electrochemical device to be charged [[when]] whenever the voltage is lower than said threshold value and causes said electrochemical device to be discharged [[when]] whenever the voltage is higher than said threshold value so that the voltage of said electrochemical device approaches said threshold value.

2. (Previously presented) The power system in accordance with claim 1, wherein, when the voltage equals to the threshold value, said charge/discharge controller selects charging if the electrochemical device is being charged upon the output of the comparison

result, and select discharging if the electrochemical device is being discharged upon the output of the comparison result.

3. (Previously presented) The power system in accordance with claim 1, further comprising: a remaining capacity detector that calculates a remaining capacity of said electrochemical device based on the output of said comparator,

wherein based on an output of said remaining capacity detector, said charge/discharge controller charges said electrochemical device when the remaining capacity is less than the remaining capacity corresponding to said threshold value and discharges said electrochemical device when the remaining capacity is greater than the remaining capacity corresponding to said threshold value.

4-5. (Cancelled)

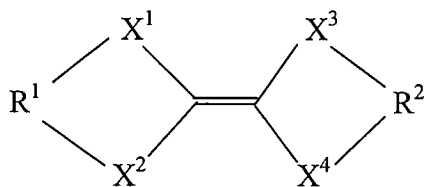
6. (Original) The power system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said charge/discharge controller controls charge/discharge of said electrochemical device such that at least a part of a difference between an amount of power generated by said power generator and an amount of power consumed by said load device is supplied or stored.

7. (Original) The power system in accordance with claim 6, wherein said charge/discharge controller further comprises a power difference determining unit that determines a difference between an amount of power generated by said power generator per unit time and an amount of power consumed by said load device per unit time, and

based on an output of said power difference determining unit, said charge/discharge controller controls charge/discharge of said electrochemical device while controlling the amount of power generated by said power generator per unit time.

8. (Original) The power system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said electrochemical device is charged by utilizing regenerative energy from said load device.

9. (Original) The power system in accordance with claim 1, wherein at least one selected from said positive electrode and said negative electrode comprises a compound having a structure represented by the general formula (1):



where each of R¹ and R² is independently a chain or cyclic aliphatic group, R¹ and R² may be the same or different, each of X¹ to X⁴ is independently a sulfur atom, an oxygen atom or a tellurium atom, X¹ to X⁴ may be the same or different, and said aliphatic group may contain one or more selected from the group consisting of an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom, a silicon atom, a phosphorus atom and a boron atom.

10. (Original) The power system in accordance with claim 2, further comprising: a parameter detector that detects at least one parameter selected from the group consisting of charge/discharge current, temperature and internal impedance of said electrochemical device;

and a field adjustor that adjusts the relation between the voltage of said electrochemical device and said threshold value based on the detected parameter.

11. (Original) The power system in accordance with claim 3, further comprising: a parameter detector that detects at least one parameter selected from the group consisting of charge/discharge current, temperature and internal impedance of said electrochemical device; and a field adjustor that adjusts the relation between the voltage or remaining capacity of said electrochemical device and said threshold value based on the detected parameter.

12. (Original) The power system in accordance with claim 3, wherein said remaining capacity detector resets the remaining capacity of said electrochemical device to a predetermined value corresponding to said threshold value when it determines the voltage of said electrochemical device to be equal to said threshold value.

13. (Original) The power system in accordance with claim 12, wherein said remaining capacity detector comprises: a step detector that detects, based on the voltage of said electrochemical device, that said electrochemical device has a remaining capacity close to a remaining capacity corresponding to said step; a current integrator that performs current integration near said step; and a corrector that corrects the remaining capacity of said electrochemical device based on a scale of the step that is determined from a current integral near said step.

14. (Original) The power system in accordance with claim 3, wherein said remaining capacity detector comprises: a step detector that detects, based on the voltage of said electrochemical device, that said electrochemical device has a remaining capacity close to that corresponding to said step; and a current integrator that performs current integration near said step, and

wherein said remaining capacity detector resets the remaining capacity of said electrochemical device to a predetermined value corresponding to said threshold value when it determines the rate of voltage change relative to capacity change: ΔC obtained by current integration:

$\Delta V/\Delta C$ to be equal to $\Delta V/\Delta C$ at the threshold value that has been predetermined depending on charge/discharge current.

15. (Original) The power system in accordance with claim 14, wherein said remaining capacity detector has a corrector that corrects the remaining capacity of said electrochemical device based on a scale of the step that is determined from a current integral near said step.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for managing a power system that comprises an electrochemical device, a load device, and a power generator,

said electrochemical device comprising a positive electrode, a negative electrode, and a liquid electrolyte or a solid electrolyte,

said electrochemical device having a charge/discharge curve that has at least one step, a given step of said at least one step having an inflection point, a voltage corresponding to the

inflection point or a point adjacent to the inflection point being set as a threshold value, the inflection point existing greater than 0 % and less than 100% of a remaining capacity, and said method comprising controlling charge/discharge of said electrochemical device, wherein said controlling charge/discharge comprises the steps of:

measuring a voltage of said electrochemical device;

comparing the measured voltage with said threshold value; and

based on a result of the comparing, charging said electrochemical device [[when]] whenever the measured voltage is lower than said threshold value and discharging said electrochemical device [[when]] whenever the measured voltage is higher than said threshold value such that the voltage of said electrochemical device approaches said threshold value.

17. (Previously presented) The method for managing a power system in accordance with claim 16, wherein said controlling charge/discharge further comprises the steps of:

when the measured voltage equals to said threshold value, charging said electrochemical device if the electrochemical device is being charged upon the measuring the voltage, and discharging the electrochemical device if the electrochemical device is being discharged upon the measuring the voltage.

18. (Previously presented) The method for managing a power system in accordance with claim 16, wherein said controlling charge/discharge comprises the steps of:

calculating a remaining capacity of said electrochemical device based on said compared result; and

charging said electrochemical device when the remaining capacity is less than the remaining capacity corresponding to said threshold value and discharging said electrochemical

device when the remaining capacity is greater than the remaining capacity corresponding to said threshold value.

19. (Original) The method for managing a power system in accordance with claim 18, further comprising the step of resetting the remaining capacity of said electrochemical device to a predetermined value corresponding to said threshold value when the voltage of said electrochemical device is determined to be equal to said threshold value.

20. (Original) The method for managing a power system in accordance with claim 18, further comprising the step of performing current integration near said threshold value and resetting the remaining capacity of said electrochemical device to a predetermined value corresponding to said threshold value when the rate of voltage change relative to capacity change: $\Delta V/\Delta C$ obtained by the current integration: $\Delta V/\Delta C$ is determined to be equal to $\Delta V/\Delta C$ at said threshold value that has been predetermined depending on charge/discharge current.

21. (Previously presented) The power system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the threshold value exists in a voltage range corresponding to between 80 % and 90% of a remaining capacity.

22. (Previously presented) The method for managing a power system in accordance with claim 16, wherein the threshold value exists in a voltage range corresponding to between 80 % and 90% of a remaining capacity.